THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year, the Enforcement Directorate has booked some cases of illegal sale and purchase of foreign exchange in and around Delhi airport. The available information does not, however, indicate any large scale illegal dealings in foreign exchange at the airport or in village Nangal Dairy as reported in the newspaper. However, vigilance at the airport has been tightened. Surprise checks are carried out from time to time and the persons apprehended are appropriately dealt with in accordance with the law.

Pigmy Deposit Collectors in Banks

2235. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to regularise the service conditions of daily Pigmy Deposit Collectors engaged by various banks in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) As pigmy deposit collectors are only agents for the purpose of collecting pigmy deposits, they only get their commission as per the contract between them and the bank concerned. Service conditions are only for the bank employees and as pigmy deposit collectors are not bank employees, there is no question of regularising their service conditions.

2236. [*Transferred to the 20th December*, 1986.]

Increase in house building advance for employees of Nationalised Banks

2237. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of the nationalised banks Associations have approached the authorities to increase the house building advance in view of the increase in prices of building material as has been done in the case of Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

News-item captioned 'Rs. 73 Crore Evasion by Fabric Processors"

2238. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' of the 5th October, 1985 captioned "Rs. 73 crore evasion by fabric processors";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how these manufacturers could hoodwink the Central Excise Officers over the years; and

(d) whether any Government officials were also involved in the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On investigation conducted by Central Excise Officers of Pune Collectorate, it has appeared that some of the cotton fabric processors of Ichalkaranji, Jaisingpur and Sangli areas of Maharashtra, have been wrongly availing of the Central Excise duty exemption under the existing Notifications, to which they are not actually entitled. Accordingly, notices have been issued to such processors calling upon them to show cause as to why the amount totalling

to Rs. 73 crores should not be recovered from them. The quasi-judicial proceedings on the notices so issued are still in progress and therefore, no further comment can be offered at this stage.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected from the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irrigation pumps sets financed by NABARD

2239. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the 90 lakhs irrigation pump sets financed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, nearly 96 per cent are defective and running at a low efficiency;

(b) if so, whether NABARD has any mechanism to judge the quality of these sets and verify their performance; and

(c) what is the quantum of financial involvement of NABARD in the field of irrigation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that as per studies conducted by it, nearly 96 per cent of the pump sets were not functioning at optimum efficiency leaving a scope for improvement by about 10-15 per cent. The defects noticed generally were improper installation, wrong sized suction/delivery pipes quality being not up to the mark etc.

(b) NABARD has since stipulated that only ISI pump sets or those having 'Q' mark of the State Government will be eligible for refinance assistance. NABARD has also evolved a scheme for a supplementary loan for replacement of defective piping system and foot valve and also for correcting installation defects.

(c) Details of refinance assistance provided by NABARD to banks under minor irrigation schemes during the last three years are furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount of refinance provided
1982-83	244·13
1983-84	312·51
1984-85	335·55

News-item captioned "Sick Units in IDBI portfolio double

2240. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Sick Units in IDBI portfolio double' which appeared in the 'Economic Times' of the 10th September, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the IDBI has not taken enough care to detect incipient sickness at the appropriate time;

(c) whether indepth study of all the units which have gone sick during the last one year has been done;

(d) what follow-up measures are taken by the IDBI when the units start defaulting payment; and

(e) whether there is any system in IDBI to make officers accountable when projects go wrong because of the faulty appraisal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) It has been reported by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) that the increase in the number of sick units over the previous year is mainly on account of addition of a number of sick units belonging to cotton textiles, sugar and paper industry. IDBI reviews regularly all defaulting accounts and where warranted, necessary re-schedulement, defer-